"What is Your Worship Costing You?"
John 2:12-25

Principle: True worship costs you something.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." Isaiah 55:1

"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is not water." Psalms 63:1, 2

"No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24

Principle: We all worship someone or something.

What is an idol? Anything that consistently distracts us from God, anything that motivates us outside of simply glorifying God.

"Worship is taking our affection off idols and putting it on God." Tim Kelly

Principle: Most people don't hate God – they just forget about God.

Three problems with the worship in the temple:

1. People were supposed to bring their own sacrifices.

   "In most churches we have the preacher performing, with God as the prompter, and the people as the audience. In truth, worship should be the people performing, with the preachers as the prompter, and God as the audience." Ben Merold

2. Business had come in to meet a need that worshippers were supposed to do.

3. Those testing the animals were corrupt.

Consumer: Someone who believes that the entire world exits to service their needs.

Worshipper: Someone who believes that his worship is about God – not them.

Principle: Worship is about God – not me.

Principle: Worship means having a heart that delights in obeying God even when obedience calls for sacrifice.

Worship has a cost: Forgiving. Waiting. Trusting. Praising. Submission. Giving.

Five practical ways of preparing for a worship service:

1. Rest before Sunday
2. Pray in advance
3. Sanctify the drive
4. Come early
5. Be a self-starter

"Lord, I recognize You as the owner of my temple. I willingly submit to the authority of Your Word. I confess that I have allowed the corruption of _____ to take up space that is reserved for worshipping You. I freely admit that I do not have the power to remove it on my own. Please cleanse me, even if I must endure hardship or suffer affliction in the process. Grant me the courage to remain steadfast as You work. Grant me patience to endure the process and provide extra encouragement when my patience wears thin. Then let me rejoice when Your temple is again pure. I make the same request as David did so many years ago: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God.' In the name of Jesus. Amen."